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Khalil al-Wazir Arrives in Amman

JN081816 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1620 GMT 8 Nov 84

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] arrived in Amman yesterday to hold discussions with Jordanian officials on the issue of convening the PNC. Brothers Abu al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid] and Rafiq al-Natshah, member of the Fatah Central Committee, arrived in Amman 2 days ago for the same purpose. They were accompanied by Brigadier Ahmad 'Afanah, chief of staff of the Palestinian forces.

Announces Date for PNC

JN081824 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 8 Nov 84

[Fu'ad Na'im dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has stated that the PNC will convene in Amman before 29 November and that the date of this session will be announced on either 13 or 15 November.

Abu Jihad added that a final decision has been made with respect to the PNC session in Amman after efforts to convene the PNC in Algiers failed and after PDRY authorities declined to hold the meeting in Aden. Abu Jihad added that the Jordanian Government informed the PLO today of its final approval to host the PNC session in Amman. Jordan has no reservations with respect to any Palestinian faction or figure who wishes to attend the PNC session in Amman.

Abu Jihad said that members of PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee will arrive in Amman next week to make the necessary arrangements for the PNC session. Abu Jihad added that invitations to attend the session will be sent to all members without exception.

On the possibility of a lack of quorum for the convocation of this session, Abu Jihad said that he believes there will be a quorum. He added: However, the PNC will convene only if there is a quorum. He said that Fatah will issue a detailed statement explaining the reasons and circumstnaces which made the PNC convene in Amman.

On another level, Abu Jihad said that he does not believe anything new will take place on U.S. policy in wake of President Ronald Reagan's reelection. He said that U.S. policy is based on providing political, economic, and military support for Israel and disavowing Arab rights.

Views Reagan Reelection, Policy

JN081815 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1620 GMT 8 Nov 84

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has said that the election camapign in the United States was an arena of competing to please the Zionist enemy and exploit views that express the true nature of the U.S. stand, which regards the Zionist existence part of its firm policy — a policy that is eager to preserve, support, and foster the Zionist existence, an important part of U.S. strategy.

In a press statement published in Tunis yesterday, Brother Abu Jihad added: We do not believe there will be anything new in Reagan's policy with regard to our cause, our right to our independent state, and our right to self-determination. Reagan's recent steps and stands and the commitments that he announced to the Zionist entity express this recent, serious trend in U.S. policy of supporting the Zionist existence with every means — politically, militarily, economically, and in all technological development fields. Brother Abu Jihad said this development represents a basis for the nature of future U.S. policy, which gives everything to the Zionist existence, denies everything pertaining to Palestinian rights, and infringes on all Arab feelings. The Arab stand is completely ignored and flouted, particularly since this stand is becoming more fragmented and dismembered. This makes the White House disregard Arab reaction to its unprecedented support and backing for the Zionist enemy.

Brother Abu Jihad said that the absence of Arab influence and action encourages U.S. policy to be further attracted and subjected to Zionist blackmail. It prompts the U.S. Administration to disregard the impotent Arab stand — a stand that lacks influence and even condemnation or an official or popular expression of anger. Brother Abu Jihad said: Now that Reagan has won and his administration will continue, the question is: What change can be expected in our stand as an Arab nation? This stand could effect a change in these U.S. stands, which constitute the major obstacles to our efforts to achieve a unified Arab stand. Then we will not be scorned and our stands will not be ignored.

INA: PLO Official on PNC Meeting in Amman

JN080756 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0624 GMT 8 Nov 84

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 8 Nov (INA) — PLO Executive Committee member 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad has asserted that the PNC will convene in Amman during the last 10 days of November. Ahmad, who is also secretary general of the ALF, told the Baghdad *AL-THAWRAH* newspaper correspondent in Tunis that the Palestinian leadership has ended its consultations and contacts and has made a final decision to hold the PNC session now that Algeria's position on hosting it in Algiers has become clear.

On another level, reliable Palestinian sources told the *AL-THAWRAH* correspondent in Tunis that the PLO leadership has entrusted the quadrilateral committee, which includes Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, and Jamal al-Surani, to prepare for and supervise holding the 17th PNC session. These sources added that the quadrilateral committee will begin its meeting on 15 November and will be in continuous session until the PNC meeting.

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MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

14 NOVEMBER 1984

Lebanon

Lebanon will resume the talks at Al-Naqurah on 15 November following the "fruitful efforts" of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, an official source announced in a statement reported by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon on 14 November. Meanwhile, Israel has released three of the four Shi'ite leaders arrested in southern Lebanon, according to Jerusalem radio. The fourth leader, Muhammad Faqih, is still being held, a Jerusalem radio report stated.

As for U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy's recent visit to Beirut, Prime Minister Rashid Karami disclosed that the U.S. envoy conveyed a report on a possible Israeli withdrawal "sooner than was expected, given specific arrangements," Beirut radio reported. Meanwhile, Murphy discussed Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus, according to Damascus radio. Murphy also conveyed a message from President Reagan thanking Al-Asad for the latter's congratulations on Reagan's reelection.

In another development, Minister of State for Southern Affairs and Reconstruction Nabih Birri revealed in remarks broadcast by Beirut radio that the Lebanese Cabinet will shortly take steps to deploy the Army on the coastal road, and use the 6th Brigade to restore order in West Beirut. The Cabinet will also discuss the appointment of a chief of staff, he said.

PLO

Jordan's King Husayn welcomed the decision to convene the PNC in Amman during a briefing by PLO leaders, PETRA-JNA reported. According to Baghdad Voice of PLO radio, 230 PNC members have agreed to participate in the 22 November session. However, Fatah dissident leader Colonel Sa'id Musa Muragha claimed that two-thirds of the PNC members will not participate, Radio Monte Carlo disclosed. Noting that a Democratic Alliance delegation was going to Tunis for consultations with the Fatah Central Committee, a DFLP source cited by the radio said that discussions will include preparation for a dialogue and "agreement on the date and venue of the PNC session in a manner that would safeguard Palestinian unity." A PFLP official supported PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum's call for a dialogue, maintaining that the place and date set for the PNC by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat serves neither Palestinian interests nor the revolution, the radio added. Meanwhile, invitations to the PNC session in Amman have been accepted by Egyptian parties and personalities, according to MENA.

Libya-Chad

In the OAU debate on Chad, Libyan Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki claimed that the Aozou Strip is an integral part of Libyan territory, PANA reported. Furthermore, Al-Turayki called for a meeting of all Chadian factions on the basis of the 1979 Lagos Accords which created the GUNT (Transitional National Unity Government), later overthrown by President Hissein Habre. Meanwhile, Chadian authorities rejected French and Libyan claims that Libyan forces have been completely withdrawn from northern Chad, according to AFP, and charged that Libya has left its Fada garrison intact. "Informed sources" cited by AFP said that Chadian claims that the Libyans are building a runway at Ouadi Doum are based on U.S. satellite photos.

Iran

The Foreign Ministry denied Western media claims that Iran wants to delay a UN fact-finding mission's visit to POW camps in Iran, Tehran radio announced, adding that the ministry stated that the UN mission, which had been invited to Iran following the Gorgan POW camp incident, should first go to Iraq to investigate the condition of Iranian POW's. The statement accused Iraq of raising the Gorgan camp issue to divert attention from the inclusion of Iraq's use of chemical weapons on the UN agenda.

As for the trial of the Tudeh Party leaders, the Clandestine National Voice of Iran charged that it has been postponed because torture by the regime has "eliminated" some of the imprisoned cadres and has affected others so badly that their mere presence would convict the regime's leaders.

Afghanistan

Soviet and DRA Government troops massacred more than 450 disarmed rebels at Hezarajot about 4 weeks ago, according to Western diplomatic sources in New Delhi cited by AFP. The rebels were shot after being forced to surrender when their ammunition ran out, the sources said.

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Further Reportage on PNC Convocation

DFLP Against Convocation

JN110950 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Nov 84 pp 1, 22

[Nabil 'Amr dispatch]

[Excerpts] Dr Jamil Hilal, official spokesman of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has denied newspaper and media reports that the DFLP had rejected the call for convening the PNC's 17th session. He affirmed that the front supports the convocation of the PNC as soon as possible, opposes any veto against holding the PNC, supports reactivating the PLO institutions, including the PNC, and at the same time opposes any unilateral call for a PNC meeting. He added that a meeting to include members from the Democratic Alliance and the Fatah Central Committee will take place in Tunis in the middle of this month, in order to fix a date and venue for the PNC session.

Khalil al-Wazir, who is also known as Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, met in Amman yesterday with a number of Democratic Alliance leaders to discover the truth behind statements made by Fatah officials. The meeting was also aimed at discussing ways to overcome the crisis after Fatah had declared its position and announced that the PNC will be held in Amman before the end of this month.

The Democratic Alliance delegation informed Al-Wazir of the stand of Democratic Alliance, including that of the PFLP, which was previously intransigent with regard to reactivating and eliminating the paralysis of the Palestinian institutions. The delegation also informed him of the front's stand on holding Executive Committee and Central Council meetings and the formation of a preparatory committee for convening the PNC.

Informed Palestinian sources in Amman said that there was no truth to reports that the PNC will be held in Amman on 22 November, because the committee entrusted with calling the PNC to session has not yet met to adopt a final decision on the date and venue. The committee formed by the PLO Executive Committee is comprised of Yasir 'Arafat, commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, and PLO Executive Committee members Dr Ahmad Sidqi al-Dajani, Jamal al-Surani, and 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad.

These sources added that the four-member committee will participate with the PNC speaker's office in calling for convocation on the basis of the call made by 160 PNC members, who issued a statement in Tunis last month calling for convening the council no later than the end of this month as a final date. This has made it a Palestinian decision.

On the other hand, while Fatah says that the meeting on 15 November that the Democratic Alliance is discussing is unnecessary because it falls within the framework of procrastination, a spokesman for the PFLP and DFLP Joint Command said in Amman yesterday that the command had made no statement on the convocation of the PNC's 17th session and that the subject is still under discussion between the signatories to the Aden-Algiers agreement. Thus, the spokesman has denied what the Democratic Alliance had been reported to say about boycotting the PNC meetings if it is held in Amman.

PLO Radio on Amman Venue

JN122000 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1625 GMT 12 Nov 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The viewpoint stressing the need for a comprehensive national consensus on holding the 17th PNC is now being offset by a new view objecting to Amman, the capital of Jordan, as the venue for the PNC. Between these two viewpoints, many maneuvers and suspect attempts are being made to obstruct the convocation of the PNC in Amman or in any other Arab capital. These maneuvers and attempts intensified after those who are behind them realized that Fatah's historic decision to hold the PNC in Amman on 22 November is an unwavering and preponderant decision.

Those who object to Amman as the venue for the PNC session must first provide an alternative so that their objection can be viewed as stemming from their concern over unity in the Palestinian arena, a unity they claim they are protecting when they ask for a change of venue. It has become known to everyone that, for many considerations dealing with Algeria itself and with its Arab and international relations, Algeria has apologized for not being able to host the PNC on its territory. The PDRY did the same after these two countries pledged to make the parties to the Aden-Algiers agreement abide by this agreement and implement its provision stipulating that the PNC would convene on 17 September 1984. Some even proposed to hold the PNC at sea, but technical reasons prevented this proposal from being taken into consideration.

The place is not that important if the free Palestinian will decides the convocation of the PNC, what formulates the militant Palestinian national program, and what makes the decisions. We remind those who object to the convocation of the PNC in Amman that the essence of the battle that has been raging since the Tripoli battles of 1983 is the independent Palestinian decisionmaking that the Syrian conspiracy, under an Arab guise, seeks to destroy.

The Palestinian command made the decision to convene the PNC in order to deal a decisive blow to this evil conspiracy and to safeguard the independent national Palestinian decisionmaking and maintain the national framework of the Palestinian people which has been set up, thanks to the many martyrs and sacrifices over some 20 years of difficult and bitter struggle.

In spite of all this, we tell those who object to Amman as a venue that they have the opportunity to seek an alternative venue. We support it if you succeed in finding a venue. However, we believe that the objection to this venue is no more than a Syrian maneuver. Can you refute this?

This is not that difficult for those who want to prove their genuine concern over unity in the Palestinian arena and over the soundness of the Palestinian framework and legitimate Palestin-

FBIS

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MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 NOVEMBER 1984

Mitterrand-Al-Qadhdhafi Meeting

Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi arrived in Crete on 15 November for a visit, during which he will hold talks with French President Francois Mitterrand in the presence of Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, Tripoli radio announced. In Paris, the Elysee Palace confirmed that Mitterrand will meet with Al-Qadhdhafi and Papandreou in Crete, according to AFP, and "reliable" sources in Athens disclosed that they will discuss the situation in Chad.

Lebanon

Negotiations — The Israeli-Lebanese talks resumed in Al-Naqurah on 15 November but differences of opinion between the two sides on substantive matters immediately became apparent, Jerusalem radio reported. The Lebanese announced that they would reject outright Israel's proposals for the deployment of the army of southern Lebanon south of the Al-Zahrani River, reaffirming Lebanon's refusal to recognize the army of southern Lebanon. The head of the Lebanese delegation also disclosed that his side will insist that henceforth only primary issues and not procedural issues be discussed, IDF radio noted.

The resumption of the talks followed the release of three of the four Shi'ite leaders arrested by the Israelis on 8 November after the completion of their interrogation, according to Jerusalem radio. However, Israel has no intention of releasing the remaining detainee, Muhammad Faqih, the Amal Movement's leader in southern Lebanon, because of his suspected involvement in the attacks on the IDF, the radio added. On the other hand, Beirut radio reported that the Amal Movement has received information indicating that Faqih will shortly be released.

Security — The Cabinet has decided to authorize the Army to ensure that the legitimate Armed Forces assume responsibility for security in Beirut and that all forces of illegal organizations are withdrawn, Prime Minister Rashid Karami stated in remarks broadcast by Beirut radio after the 14 November Cabinet meeting. The Army will also be ordered to deploy southward along the coastal road as far as the Al-Awwali River and in the Al-Kharrub area, he noted. As for the need for a new chief of staff following the death of Major General Nadim al-Hakim last August, Karami announced the Cabinet's decision to appoint Major General Mahmud Tayy Abu Dargham to fill the vacant position. Druze leader Walid Junblatt was again absent from the Cabinet meeting "for well-known security reasons," the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio noted.

Meanwhile, Junblatt's forces engaged in further clashes with Army positions in the Suq al-Gharb area, according to Voice of the Mountain and the Christian radios, Voice of Lebanon and the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon.

PLO

Fatah Central Committee members Salah Khalaf and Khalil al-Wazir left for Tunis to discuss the convocation of the PNC with a Democratic Alliance delegation, Tunis radio reported. While Khalaf and al-Wazir confirmed that all arrangements have been made for convening the PNC in Amman on 22 November, they indicated that if a general agreement is reached in Tunis the session might be postponed until a later date. On the other hand, PLO official Faruq Qaddumi said in remarks cited by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio that the decision to hold the PNC is "decisive and final," although dialogue with the Democratic Alliance will go on while the session is in progress. As for PNC speaker Khalid al-Fahum's position, in a Damascus radio interview he observed that over the past 14 years no PNC session has met on schedule. It is the speaker's prerogative to call an ordinary session, he insisted, and contacts with "about 150" members of PLO groups, as well as a petition signed by 37 PNC members in Amman, reveal opposition to convening the PNC without a previous "comprehensive dialogue."

Meanwhile, the DFLP called for stopping the current "unilateral" measures to convene the PNC, Radio Monte Carlo reported, and a spokesman for the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, according to Damascus television, urged an immediate resumption of the dialogue between the National and Democratic Alliances to form a "suitable basis" for holding the PNC meeting.

Israel

Tabah Dispute — The atmosphere in the Israeli-Egyptian military talks in Rome is "excellent" and the two sides have discussed the possibility of inviting the MFO to assume responsibility in Tabah, the head of the Israeli military delegation disclosed in a statement to *HADASHOT*. However, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has told other Likud ministers that he rejects the deployment of the MFO in Tabah and that "any Israeli concession in Tabah amounts to a surrender," *HADASHOT* noted.

Electronic Intelligence — Israel has developed airborne electronic intelligence systems with a range of over 400 km, *HATZOFE* reported.

Iran on Iraqi Use of Kuwaiti Islands

Kuwait and Iraq agreed to suspend their territorial claims against each other so that Iraq can use Kuwait's Persian Gulf islands for the duration of the Iran-Iraq war, IRNA claimed, adding that this agreement was reached during a visit to Baghdad by Kuwaiti Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah.

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FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

16 NOVEMBER 1984

Mitterrand-Al-Qadhdhafi Talks

The talks in Crete between Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, French President Francois Mitterrand, and Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi ended with "absolute agreement" on the principle that "not even a single French or Libyan" should remain in Chad, Athens radio reported. After the talks, Al-Qadhdhafi said he is "happy that there are persons like Papandreou and Mitterrand because they constitute a guarantee for peace and security in the Mediterranean," and he concurred with Papandreou's view that a "new page" has opened for all parties concerned. Noting Papandreou's role in arranging the meeting, the radio contended that the Chad problem has been "resolved" thanks to Papandreou's initiative.

Reports on the talks by JANA and Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio did not mention Chad but said the meeting focused on international issues and peace in the Mediterranean. However, in a related commentary on French policy toward Africa, Tripoli radio asserted that Mitterrand's government has apparently realized the "futility" of its previous policy toward Chad, which ignored Libya's "distinguished and important role," and has therefore intensified contacts with the Jamahiriyah. The Libyan-French withdrawal agreement on Chad was widely welcomed except by the U.S. Government, which tried to cast doubts on its credibility, the radio added.

Lebanese-Israeli Talks

Although the talks made some progress on the deployment of the Lebanese Army "in certain areas," the Lebanese plan for security arrangements is "unacceptable" to Israel, the head of the Israeli military delegation at Al-Naqurah stated in a Jerusalem radio interview after the session on 15 November. The Israelis made it clear to the Lebanese that the two sides must agree on "practical arrangements" and that the talks will run aground very soon if the Lebanese continue to present "complicated arguments and political statements," he added. In a related report, the radio noted that a senior Israeli source at the talks dismissed Lebanon's intention to deploy its Army in the south, asserting that the Lebanese Army is incapable of carrying out such an extensive operation, and describing the Lebanese demand to deploy 10,000 soldiers in the area as "ludicrous." The Lebanese proposal was met by a "mocking smile" from the Israeli side, because the Lebanese Army is incapable of deploying within southern Beirut, let alone the south of the country, the radio said. As for Lebanon's refusal to permit any illegitimate armed organization in the south like the army of southern Lebanon, Jerusalem radio said that Israel might still accept this clause, although the Lebanese intention is apparently to "pull the rug out from under the army of southern Lebanon's feet once and for all." The Lebanese also demanded that Israel pay $10 billion in reparations for war damage, according to IDF radio.

Meanwhile, a Lebanese source cited by Beirut radio described the atmosphere at the talks as "positive" and disclosed that the next session will be held on 19 November.

Israel

The Consumer Price Index increased by 24.3 percent in October, the last month before the package deal, according to Jerusalem radio.

PLO

A PLO official in Amman affirmed that the PNC will convene in Amman on 22 November, as scheduled, and that the session will not be postponed, Amman radio reported. Nevertheless, further opposition to the date and venue was expressed not only by National Alliance leaders but also by officials of the PFLP and the DFLP, the two largest groups in the Democratic Alliance. For the PFLP, Secretary General George Habash announced his front's rejection of the date and venue of the session, according to Radio Monte Carlo, while DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah told the *JORDAN TIMES* that the session in Amman is "in violation of the PLO Charter, since it was called by Fatah alone." After meeting with Fatah officials in Tunis, Hawatimah's deputy, Yasir 'abd Rabbuh, stated that the crisis has reached a very serious stage and requires an immediate meeting of the PLO Executive Committee, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Meanwhile, PFLP-General Command leader Ahmad Jibril disclosed that contacts are underway among National Alliance factions to hold their own national council in Damascus or another pro-Nationalist Arab capital after 25 November, according to SANA. Jibril claimed that the National Alliance has a memorandum containing the signatures of 180 PNC members who reject the convocation of the PNC by the Fatah leaders. On the other hand, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio claimed that both Israel and Syria have adopted measures to prevent PNC members leaving to attend the PNC session in Amman.

Western Sahara

At an Addis Ababa press conference reported by PANA, SDAR President Mohamed Abdelaziz called on Morocco to negotiate with the SDAR to end the continuing war "between our two countries." He urged the Moroccans to replace "intransigence by wisdom and the spirit of responsibility."

Sudan

The clandestine radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) claimed that SPLA forces attacked and occupied Daga post in the eastern upper Nile region on 14 November, killing two platoons of government troops.

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Further Reportage on PNC Convocation

Speaker Al-Fahum Interviewed

JN141433 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1135 GMT 14 Nov 84

[Interview with PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum by an unidentified correspondent in Damascus — date not given; recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Is an 8-month delay in convening the PNC a significant matter for you and for the PLO in general?

[Khalid al-Fahum] It would be preferable for the PNC to be held on time. However, over the past 14 years, not a single session was held on schedule. The least delay in any session was 9 months. The 14th session was delayed for 2 and 1/2 years. I would like to tell you that during the past 14 years, we were supposed to hold 14 sessions. Holding 7 sessions in 14 years illustrates that there was always a delay in convening the PNC. Why the delay? Because the PLO is not a party, nor is it a movement that includes persons who have various thoughts, trends, and inclinations. [sentence as heard] We agree on a single strategy but we have a right, left, and center. Even in the same organization you find these different currents. We have many Palestinian groupings. Not all the Palestinians are on their own soil. They are not even living in one Arab country. There are interactions between the Palestinians and their Arab hosts. All these factors affect holding the PNC. We were always very careful to reach agreement before holding the PNC, because the PNC is the supreme body; it should not be divided. Any division in any other body can be tolerated but not in the PNC. Therefore, we used to hold meetings in which the Presidium Office, the PLO Executive Committee, the secretaries general, the nonpartisan Palestinian functionaries took part in order to agree on a date and venue for the PNC session. That is why the PNC sessions were delayed.

This also applies to the present session. If we hold the PNC in Amman on 22 November, then it will not be preceded by comprehensive consultations or dialogues among the various Palestinian forces. Therefore, since the ninth session, when I became speaker, there was always a delay in the PNC meetings. The delay averaged 1 and 1/2 years.

[Correspondent] Therefore, this is not the first time that the PNC session has been delayed?
[Al-Fahum] The least delay ever was 9 months.

[Correspondent] In his capacity as your assistant speaker, Salim al-Za'nun says: We, meaning Fatah, want to hold the PNC soon because Syria and the factions, which he says are under Syria's domination, want to hold a PNC meeting on their own. To what extent is this statement true?

[Al-Fahum] Our position has been clear from the very beginning. First, Salim al-Za'nun, who is the PNC's deputy speaker, is not right. I made my position clear from the beginning; namely, that I will not call for a divided PNC. I reject division no matter from what quarter it comes. Therefore, it is not true to say that Syria rejects holding the PNC so that it can establish another one. The PNC is there and nobody has the power to abolish the PNC or change it. The PNC is its own master. No Arab state has power over it. Second, I have never felt that the Syrian brothers interfered in this issue. Nobody has spoken to me on this subject. I have never heard anybody say that Syria wanted to hold another PNC.

[Correspondent] Since the speaker of the PNC is the only one who is authorized to call a PNC session, does the PLO or a committee formed by the PLO chairmanship have the right to issue such a call?

[Al-Fahum] To be exact, there is no post called the PLO chairman. We have the PLO Executive Committee chairman; this is very clear. When you said chairmanship of the PLO, I did not understand you. We have an Executive Committee, a PLO Central Council, and a PNC. This is the leadership of the PLO. The rules are clear; the call for holding an ordinary session is the prerogative of the speaker and only the speaker. It is not the prerogative of the deputy speaker or any other person. As for the emergency or extraordinary session, the rules say that the Executive Committee can call for an emergency session at any time. They also say that one quarter of the PNC members can call for an emergency session at any time. They should inform the speaker about this. If the speaker does not call for the session, these members have the right to convene the session at the time and in the venue they deem appropriate. This is if the session is an emergency session, and this is not an emergency session.

[Correspondent] Therefore, we can say that no committee such as the one announced by Salah Khalaf in Amman yesterday and which includes 'Arafat and three other Fatah Central Committee members has the right to extend invitations for convening a new session of the PNC.

[Al-Fahum] Only the PNC speaker has such a right, and a preparatory committee may assist him. But a committee cannot be formed because this is not an extraordinary PNC session, this is an ordinary session, and only the PNC speaker can do such a thing in consultation with the PNC Presidium, the Executive Committee, the secretaries general, and the functionaries or the Palestinian citizens who are not members, just as happened during all the past session.

[Correspondent] In your memorandum addressed to 'Arafat yesterday and published in the papers, you say that you will begin contacts with the concerned Palestinian parties and sides.

[Al-Fahum] I have begun contacts. I held contacts with our brothers in the PFLP, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the National Alliance, as well as with six of the PLO Executive Committee members in Damascus and a number of PNC members in Syria, Jordan, Kuwait, and the UAE. All of them informed me that they are opposed to the convocation of the PNC session on 22 November and that they will support the convocation of the PNC only after holding a comprehensive dialogue and agreement. These members number about 150.

[Correspondent] Therefore, we can say....

[Al-Fahum] I am sorry to interrupt you. I have received a petition signed by 37 PNC members in Amman. I did not demand such a petition from them. The petition is in front of me, and I think

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Further Reportage on PNC Convocation

Fatah Prepares for Session

JN150938 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Nov 84 p 1, 2

[By Lamis K. Andoni and Hamadah Fara'inah]

[Excerpts] Amman — Fatah, the biggest commando movement within the PLO, is going ahead with preparations to convene the PNC in Amman on November 22 despite mounting opposition by other Palestinian factions.Fatah officials told the *JORDAN TIMES* Wednesday that invitations, signed by the PNC's deputy speaker, Adib al-Za'nun have already been sent out to PNC members and five Amman hotels have been reserved for those who would attend the council session.

The Damascus-based speaker of the PNC, Khalid al-Fahum, however, strongly criticised his deputy's action, describing it as "illegal." Contacted by the *JORDAN TIMES* over the phone, Mr al-Fahum Wednesday asserted that he would not attend "any alternate PNC in Damascus." Convening a PNC session in the Syrian capital "is as dangerous in its consequences as a council called by Fatah to meet in Amman," he said. "Both meetings, if convened, will lead to a dangerous split in the PLO," he contended. Mr al-Fahum added that he has informed all PLO factions of his stand.

Another PLO leader who strongly objects to the convening of the PNC in Amman also told the *JORDAN TIMES* that his organisation will not participate in any meeting called by any lone PLO faction in Amman or in Damascus. Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the DFLP — one of the factions that make up a "Democratic Alliance" within the PLO — told the *JORDAN TIMES* in a telephone interview from Damascus that the PFLP, another faction in the "Democratic Alliance," was against "any divisive council that is not called for through the legal procedures or at least by the majority." Mr Hawatimah said that the "Democratic Alliance," which includes the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) and the Palestinian Communist Party along with the DFLP and PFLP, "would not attend any council which is convened outside the framework of the PLO Charter." He said he considered the planned PNC session in Amman is "in violation of the PLO Charter, since it was called for by Fatah alone."

The "Democratic Alliance" has a "comprehensive and realistic plan" to solve the current deadlock, Mr Hawatimah said adding that the alliance representatives will discuss the plan with the Fatah leadership in Tunis Thursday. Mr Hawatimah was referring to suggestions that the PNC be postponed for two months pending discussions over the issue by the PLO Executive Committee and the Palestine Central Council.The suggestions, which were endorsed by 37 of the 62 PNC members living in Jordan, have already been rejected by the Fatah leadership but Fatah sources confirmed that a meeting of alliance representatives with Fatah leaders was to take place in Tunis on Thursday.

Asked what position would the "Democratic Alliance" adopt if Fatah rebels and other Syrian-backed factions grouped in the "National Alliance" refused to attend a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee held according to the plan, Mr Hawatimah avoided a direct reply and said: "We hope that the 'National Alliance' would shoulder its responsibility and participate." "However," he added, "we shall abide by PLO Executive Committee decisions and the Central Council resolutions regardless of those who would decline to participate in the meetings because we would consider the decisions and resolutions as those of the majority."

Fatah, meanwhile, appeared determined to convene the council in Amman as scheduled and confident of securing the required quorum for the council to meet. Fatah Central Committee member and deputy military commander of the PLO, Khalil al-Wazir, told the Associated Press in an interview Wednesday that "the PNC is going to be held in Amman on November 22 as scheduled." However, doubts over Fatah's ability to secure the quorum were raised by PLO officials and observers alike. Mr al-Fahum told Damascus Radio he was sure that "150 PNC members would boycott the session in Amman."

Moreover, two senior officials of Fatah have repeatedly failed to talk the 37 PNC members, who endorsed the suggestions calling for meetings of the PLO Executive Committee and Central Council, to attend the planned council session. Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, and Salah Khalaf, member of the Fatah Central Committee, Tuesday met with the 37 PNC members, well-informed sources told the *JORDAN TIMES*. But, the sources said, the officials could not reach agreement with the PNC members. The sources said that the two officials reviewed with the PNC members the history of Fatah's relations with Syria and stressed that the movement was compelled to reach the decision to convene the council in Amman because of a deadlock in talks with the "National Alliance" and the "nonhelpful attitude of the 'Democratic Alliance.'"

The sources also quoted Mr Qaddumi as telling the PNC members that the Syrians have offered him the chairmanship of the PLO once Mr 'Arafat is ousted, but he refused to take up the offer. The sources also quoted Mr Khalaf as proposing that another PNC meeting could be called in 10 days after the Amman conference if the 37 PNC members agreed to attend. But, sources close to the PNC members told the *JORDAN TIMES* that the council members "were not convinced of the two officials' arguments and they felt that they were offered nothing new."

Jibril on Alternative Meeting

JN152111 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2030 GMT 15 Nov 84

[Text] Damascus, 15 Nov (SANA) — Comrade Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the PFLP-GC, has strongly attacked 'Arafat's call for convening the PNC in Amman, regarding such a call as clear proof of the course of deviation and treason. In a statement to AFP that was transmitted today by the front's Central Information and Guidance Department [passage indistinct].

Comrade Jibril called for initiating a national dialogue on a progressive basis that is hostile to imperialism and Zionism in the Palestinian arena as a solution to confront 'Arafat's moves, provided the nationalist, progressive sides embark on this dia-

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Further Reportage on PNC Meeting

'Arafat Assassination Plot Reported

GF191900 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 18 Nov 84 pp 1, 26

[Excerpts] A senior Palestinian official revealed yesterday to *AL-ANBA'* that a assassination attempt on Yasir 'Arafat was discovered in Amman while he was presiding over a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee. In statement to *AL-ANBA'*, Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid, alias Abu al-Hawl, member of the Fatah Central Committee and chief of security for the Palestinian revolution, said that certain groups of people who had planned to assassinate Yasir 'Arafat have been arrested. He said that one of these groups have been arrested in Jordan recently. He added: "The United States and Israel decided to assassinate Yasir 'Arafat a long time ago. It is regretful that there a similar decision has been adopted by an Arab party." The assassination attempt coincided with news about the possibility of an Israeli attack against the venue of the PNC meetings in Amman.

'Arafat Due in Amman; Qaddumi Arrives

JN200720 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Nov 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — *AL-RA'Y* — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is expected to arrive in Amman tomorrow, Wednesday. Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, will arrive in Amman from Kuwait today. Faruq Qaddumi, alias Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, arrived in Amman yesterday evening to participate in the preparations being made to convene the PNC.

'Arafat Comments on Leadership Meeting

JN191715 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Text] Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has explained during a meeting of the Palestinian leadership in Tunis that the stands of the various Palestinian bodies, factions, and dignitaries on the convocation of the PNC have been discussed. He said the PLO Executive Committee meeting, he called in Tunis 2 days ago, was a meeting that was proposed by a number of PNC members in response to the so-called final-hour dialogue.

Monte Carlo on Amman Preparations

JN181742 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 18 Nov 84

[Fu'ad Na'im dispatch from Amman]

[Text] It has virtually been confirmed that the PNC will convene in Amman on 22 November after that the PLO Executive Committee meeting in Tunis yesterday was canceled. Some resistance factions had called for a PLO Executive Committee meeting to discuss ways of attaining Palestinian accord that would help in deciding another venue and date for the PNC.

A responsible source in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine stated that the refusal of the PFLP and National Alliance parties to attend the PLO Executive Committee meeting undermined this meeting.

Palestinian officials continued to make the necessary arrangements today to convene the PNC in Amman. PNC Deputy Speaker Salim al-Za'nun said he expects that the necessary quorum for the PNC meeting will be available. The PNC agenda is expected to deal with all political, military, and financial issues that are under discussion in the Palestinian arena. The PNC will also elect the new PLO Executive Committee members and a new PNC speaker. Al-Za'nun said that if the quorum is not attained, the PNC members meeting in Amman will discuss the points listed on the agenda without making decisions. However, reports from Kuwait today mention that Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] stressed that Fatah will withdraw from the PLO if the necessary quorum for the PNC meeting is not attained.

It has become clear that the PNC will not make dramatic political decisions because the conferees are anxious to mitigate the acute differences among the resistance factions. Several Palestinian officials have stressed that the Amman meeting does not mean that there is an identical Jordanian-PLO policy and that the PLO will join the so-called Amman-Cairo-Baghdad axis.

The PNC will meet in the Palace of Culture in the Sports City in Amman. Some 2,500 persons, including PNC members, guests, and observers, will attend. Some sources believe that King Husayn will deliver the opening speech in Yasir 'Arafat's presence.

PLO Official on Upcoming Session

GF191120 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 19 Nov 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 19 Nov (WAKH) — The director of the PLO office in Bahrain, Wafa Nabhan, has asserted that the PNC's 17th session, scheduled to be held in Amman on Thursday, will discuss two primary issues. In a statement published in Manama today, the Palestinian official said the first issue is the election of a new PLO Executive Committee, now that the current PLO Executive Committee has submitted its resignation to the PNC, as well as the election of a new PNC speaker — the post which is currently occupied by Khalid al-Fahum. The second issue is the means to reaffirm and reinforce the legitimacy and unity of the PLO, particularly against those who believe they have been able to split PLO unity and create holes in its ranks. Nabhan also said the task of the upcoming PNC session is to reaffirm the PLO's unity and legitimacy and safeguard independent Palestinian decisionmaking.

PNC Spokesman Press Conference

JN200929 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Nov 84 pp 1, 20

[Tawfiq al-'Abid's dispatch]

[Text] Amman — Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman, PNC official spokesman and official in charge of the PLO Foreign Information Department, has disclosed that the PLO has rejected a Syrian demand to prevent the condemnation or trial of the

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